

[illegible]

A plurality of submarine cable transmission paths extending from a plurality of land-based terminal stations are connected with each other in a submarine branching apparatus, and an electric power feeding line is arranged between each land-based terminal station and an electric power feeding line switching unit of the submarine branching apparatus to supply electric power from the electric power feeding line to a communication signal of the corresponding submarine cable transmission path through repeaters. The electric power feeding lines are connected with each other in the electric power feeding line switching unit. A control signal superposed on the communication signal is sent to the electric power feeding line switching unit through one submarine cable transmission path, and the connection of the electric power feeding lines is switched according to the control signal. Because the switching is performed when the electric power feeding lines are electrically set to a stable state, no electric arc is generated in the switching. Also, each submarine cable transmission path is formed of an optical fiber, so that the electric power is supplied from one electric power feeding line to the control signal of the submarine cable transmission path. Therefore, the control signal is not attenuated, and the connection of the electric power feeding lines can be reliably switched.